

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1193

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 35, TITLE 31, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 31-3559, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY PRIMARY CARE PILOT PROGRAM WITHIN THE CATASTROPHIC HEALTH CARE COST PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING A SUNSET DATE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. The Legislature finds that health care programs implemented by the federal government fail to lower health care costs or adequately improve access to care. Such programs also fail to leverage unique community solutions and resources that help people rise out of poverty and promote long-term health care goals. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to create a program that is unique to Idaho, helps keep health care costs low, improves access to care and leverages the multitude of community resources available to help Idaho's most vulnerable residents with their health care needs.

SECTION 2. That Chapter 35, Title 31, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 31-3559, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

31-3559. COMMUNITY PRIMARY CARE PILOT PROGRAM. (1) There is hereby created within the catastrophic health care cost program a community primary care pilot program, hereinafter referred to as the "program." The purpose of the program is to provide enhanced primary care to individuals at risk of hospitalization in the absence of such care. The program shall use state matching funds to assist local nonprofit organizations that provide low-cost or free medical care to individuals. The program shall serve up to one thousand one hundred (1,100) eligible individuals based on available funding.

(2) To participate in the program, an individual shall:

(a) Have an annual income of less than one hundred percent (100%) of the federal poverty level;

(b) Reside in a county where the program is active;

(c) Have chronic physical or mental health conditions that require ongoing regular care; and

(d) Be sponsored for participation by a nonprofit organization as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) An organization qualified to sponsor individuals in the program shall be a nonprofit health center or similar nonprofit organization that provides or pays for health care services for persons who lack income or other resources sufficient to pay for such health care services. In order to sponsor an individual for the program, a nonprofit organization shall submit an application on a form developed by the board to the county commissioners

1 of the county in which the individual resides or to the designee of the county
2 commissioners as further provided in subsection (11) of this section. The
3 application shall include:

4 (a) The name of the individual and information about the individual's
5 income, resources and health needs that will assist the county commis-
6 sioners or their designee in determining the individual's eligibility
7 for the program;

8 (b) A medical diagnosis and treatment plan developed for the individual
9 by a medical provider associated with or contracted by the nonprofit or-
10 ganization, which shall include a description of the treatment or ser-
11 vices that shall be provided to the individual;

12 (c) A statement verifying that the individual is willing to follow rea-
13 sonable medical advice;

14 (d) A description of how the care to be provided shall benefit the indi-
15 vidual and the community, financially and otherwise;

16 (e) A funding request that includes the amount of money the nonprofit
17 organization shall contribute for the individual's care and the sources
18 of such money; the amount of money, if any, that the individual intends
19 to contribute for the individual's care and the amount of matching funds
20 requested from the program; and

21 (f) Other information deemed pertinent by the board.

22 (4) Upon receipt of the application, the county commissioners or their
23 designee shall determine whether to approve the application and provide the
24 matching funds requested. Such matching funds shall be equal or less than
25 two dollars (\$2.00) for each dollar contributed by the nonprofit organiza-
26 tion and the individual and shall not exceed fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) per
27 month. The decision to approve an application shall be at the discretion
28 of the county commissioners or their designee and subject to available pro-
29 gram funding. Upon approving an application, the county commissioners or
30 their designee shall notify the nonprofit organization and the board of the
31 individual's participation, and the board shall provide such funds per the
32 agreement as are available.

33 (5) Medical services under the pilot program may be contracted for a
34 twelve (12) month period and may be renewed for an additional two (2) years.
35 If a participating individual exceeds one hundred percent (100%) of the
36 federal poverty level during the individual's participation in the program,
37 such individual may remain in the program until the end of the current twelve
38 (12) month period.

39 (6) A nonprofit organization may use funds received under the program
40 to pay for a participating individual's primary care or other medical ser-
41 vices; provided however, that the cost of such care or services shall not ex-
42 ceed the amount provided pursuant to subsection (4) of this section. Noth-
43 ing in this section shall prohibit the nonprofit organization or others from
44 providing more funds to pay for a participating individual's other medical
45 needs.

46 (7) A nonprofit organization participating in the program shall make
47 an annual report to the board of county commissioners or their designee on
48 the progress of each individual participating in the program and the overall
49 progress of the program.

1 (8) The pilot program shall be active in five (5) counties selected by
2 the board, only one (1) of which shall have a population greater than fifty
3 thousand (50,000) persons as determined by the current United States census.

4 (9) Participation in the pilot program by a county, individual or non-
5 profit organization shall be optional. Nothing in this section shall be con-
6 strued to mandate or require a county, individual or nonprofit organization
7 to participate in the pilot program. An individual's participation in the
8 pilot program shall not preclude that individual from otherwise seeking as-
9 sistance from the catastrophic health care cost program.

10 (10) The pilot program shall be funded through legislative appropri-
11 ation to the catastrophic health care cost program and matching funds con-
12 tributed by participating nonprofit organizations and individuals. Appro-
13 priated moneys designated as pilot program moneys shall be used exclusively
14 for pilot program purposes, including up to three percent (3%) for adminis-
15 trative purposes.

16 (11) The county commissioners of a participating county may designate a
17 person or entity to consider pilot program applications; provided however,
18 that the designee shall not be a person or organization otherwise partici-
19 pating in the pilot program.

20 (12) The pilot program shall last for three (3) years, during which pe-
21 riod the board shall submit, not later than January 31 of each year, an an-
22 nual written report on the program to the senate health and welfare committee
23 and the house health and welfare committee of the legislature of the state of
24 Idaho. At the end of the three (3) year period, the legislature shall deter-
25 mine the future of the pilot program.

26 SECTION 3. The provisions of Section 2 of this act shall be null, void
27 and of no force and effect on and after July 1, 2019.